

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

An important part of representing my district is to ensure **Stamford** and **Darien** receive critical state funding. I am pleased to report these state grants and

reimbursements in Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Stamford was the only municipality to receive an increase in Education Cost Sharing funding in this budget.

STATE AID FOR STAMFORD & DARIEN	Fiscal Year 09-10
Total Education Grants	\$10,034,815
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$759,512
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$928,803
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$896,465
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$3,506,879
Total State Funds to the 27th District	\$16,126,474

Federal Funds for Stamford and Darien

With Congress’ passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Obama administration is making historic investments in our state—including several million dollars in funding for **Stamford** and **Darien**. Under ARRA, Stamford has benefitted from more than \$26 million in community development formula grants, more than \$3.5 million in special education grants, and more than \$7 million for energy efficiency. Among the grants received by Darien, more than \$1.7 million was provided for station maintenance, repairs and improvements, more than \$800,000 for special education programs, and \$975,000 for road paving.

J.M. Wright Technical High School

Despite repeated efforts by the Stamford legislative delegation, Governor Rell suspended operations at Wright Tech pending the results of a two-year “restructuring study.” While this is very disappointing, there is good news. We fought for, and obtained, a total of more than \$90 million in the recently passed state budget for the reconstruction of a new Wright Tech.

Putting Stamford on the Map

Those who regularly drive our interstate highways may be familiar with the term “control cities,” the federal designation for important cities and landmarks that warrant highway signs. As Connecticut’s business capital, Stamford has never had this designation and for several years I have fought the State Department of Transportation (DOT) on this subject. Finally we have begun to make progress as a result of legislation I authored requiring DOT to develop regulations for this critical transportation infrastructure. I will continue to advocate for this cause and hopefully overcome DOT’s opposition.



Dear Neighbor,

The global recession has hit Connecticut hard. People across our state have lost their jobs, and many have lost their homes in foreclosures. During these difficult economic times, as spending for programs and services was cut across the board, I worked hard to make sure my constituents continue to receive the most critical services they need.

This year we passed legislation to help families who are facing potential foreclosure, while simultaneously stiffening penalties for lenders or brokers who commit mortgage fraud. We also increased access to at-home care for the elderly and enhanced the appeals process for individuals who are denied health insurance coverage.

Now more than ever we need to work diligently to invest in our local communities and infrastructure. I am proud to say I have worked toward accomplishing that goal by bringing critical funding back to my district and fighting for the issues most important to my constituents.

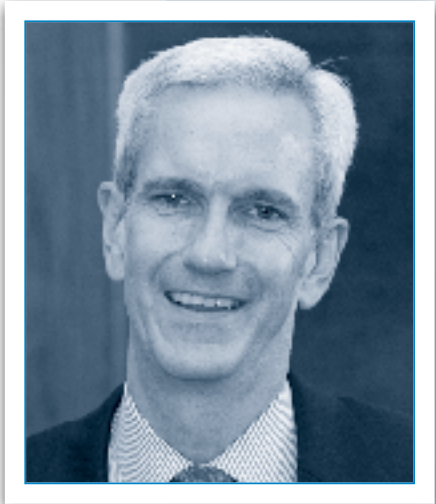
Sincerely,

Andrew

Andrew J. McDonald
State Senator

State Senator
Andrew J. McDonald

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I’m proud to
represent the
27th Senate District:
Stamford & Darien

Stay Informed in a “Green” Way



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State Senator
Andrew J. McDonald
27th District

Serving Stamford & Darien

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Helping Families on the Brink of Foreclosure

The housing market crash has had a devastating effect on our state and national economies. Connecticut has been a leader in its effort to keep people in their homes and stabilize property values for all homeowners. We built on that success this year by expanding two important mortgage assistance programs. A new law now requires banks and homeowners to work together to explore restructuring options before any foreclosure takes place. The law also improves regulation of mortgage professionals and expands the banking commissioner's enforcement and investigative authority.



Felony Charges for Mortgage Fraud

Potential homeowners trust that a mortgage lender or broker is acting in good faith. When that trust is broken, however, unscrupulous lenders could now face a felony charge of residential mortgage fraud. Effective October 1, a person who is convicted of just one count of this crime could face a \$5,000 fine and up to five years in prison. The new law should serve as a deterrent for unethical brokers and help protect new homebuyers.



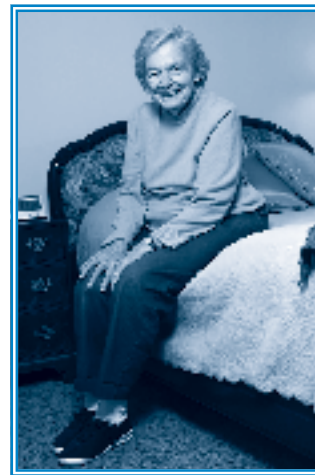
Criminal Penalties for Identity Theft

Identity theft is a serious crime that can have devastating consequences for victims who spend, on average, \$1,180 and 60 hours cleaning up their credit record. Damaged credit makes it tough to get a good interest rate on a car loan, home mortgage or credit card. This year we created a new law that expands the definition of "identity theft" and increases the penalties for those who target seniors.

HEALTH CARE UPDATE

When Health Insurance Coverage is Denied

When you or a family member is faced with a critical health care matter, the last thing you need is a bureaucratic insurance obstacle. A new law establishes an expedited appeals process in circumstances where an insurer denies treatment and the length of time it takes to appeal that denial could cause or worsen a life-threatening situation. The General Assembly also passed legislation to prohibit using short-term use of prescription drugs for anxiety as a factor in denying health care coverage. Without this new law, some individuals would not be able to acquire preventive health coverage, making them unable to afford routine screenings and other procedures necessary to maintain good health.



At-Home Care for the Elderly

Many senior citizens in Connecticut will soon have increased access to personal, non-medical care due to the enactment of a new law I supported. Qualifying seniors can receive financial aid for in-home personal care assistants to help with such things as bathing, dressing and meal preparation. This approach is more desirable for seniors and more cost-effective for the state. It allows elderly residents to hire their preferred assistants without using a home health-care agency.

Healthy Schools, Healthy Kids

We expect our children's schools to be clean and safe. That's why the legislature voted this year to phase in the use of "green" cleaning programs in all of Connecticut's public schools. Switching to a green cleaning program not only helps to keep harmful chemicals away from growing children, it also helps to save money.



TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Test Train Cars

After years of planning, new "test" M-8 railroad cars are now en-route to Connecticut to begin safety and function testing for future service on the New Haven/Metro-North Railroad line. If the testing goes well, Metro-North commuters will be enjoying 10 new rail cars per month—300 new rail cars total—starting next year. I was happy to support the replacement of the antiquated M-2 and M-4 cars with a new line of commuter cars that have brighter lights, more space, larger windows and better seats. Pictured above is the interior of the new cars.



Photo courtesy CT D.O.T.

Weigh Station Update

Several years ago, I worked hard to require the executive branch to issue biannual, comprehensive reports on truck weigh station activity around the state. While the public and legislators used to be kept in the dark regarding these operations, I am proud to say that after two full years of reporting (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2009) our truck weigh stations have been open 13,771 hours, made 291,109 inspections, detected 39,246 violations, and issued \$7,158,722 in potential fines. Over the last two years, 62 percent of all fines levied on unsafe trucks in the state came from the Greenwich weigh station.



Don't Block the Box

At the request of the Board of Representatives, the Stamford delegation sponsored legislation this year that allows municipalities to designate intersections where motor vehicles are prohibited from entering if they can't proceed

without obstructing other cars and trucks, regardless of whether they have a green light. This "Don't Block the Box" law went into effect on October 1st and should help make rush hour traffic move better and more efficiently.